

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6110

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E. O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, JA

SUBJ: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMUNITY'S TRADE
RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5048

1. SUMMARY. THE EC COUNCIL APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE
ON DECEMBER 3 A STATEMENT OF "GENERAL PRINCIPLES" RE-
GARDING THE COMMUNITY'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.
THESE GENERAL PRINCIPLES ARE NOT VERY CLEAR DESPITE
HEADLINES IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS INDICATING THAT THIS
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REPRESENTS A HARDENING OF THE POSITION TOWARD JAPAN,

LOCAL JAPANESE DEL SOURCES DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS SO. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC COUNCIL ADOPTED AS A POINT A ITEM (A SETTLED ITEM REQUIRING NO DEBATE) A GENERAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES PREPARED BY AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE PERM REPS ON THE COMMUNITY'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. THIS GROUP HAS WORKED FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS IN TRYING TO DECIDE ON "GENERAL PRINCIPLES" TO GOVERN THESE RELATIONS (PARA 2 REFTEL). THE PERM REPS HAD NOT BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE FIRST REPORT WHICH WAS CONSIDERED TOO ABSTRACT AND LONG. THE AD HOC GROUP THEN PREPARED A CESON VERSION WHICH IS ALSO RATHER ABSTRACT.

3. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE IN ONE PERM DEL, THE FRENCH INSISTED UPON SEEKING AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE COUNCIL WHEREAS EIGHT OTHER MEMBER STATES SAW NO NEED TO SUBMIT THE MATTER TO THE COUNCIL. THE FRENCH ARGUED THAT COUNCIL CONSIDERATION WOULD AT LEAST PROMPT THE COMMISSION TO COME FORWARD MORE RAPIDLY WITH PRECISE PROPOSALS TO CARRY OUT THE "GENERAL PRINCIPLES". OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES ARE SO IMPRECISE THAT THEY DO NOT ADD ANY ELEMENT OF CLARITY. THE JAPANESE MISSION HERE HAS ALSO DESCRIBED THE AD HOC REPORT AS NOT TOO IMPORTANT. DESPITE HEADLINES IN THE HERALD TRIBUNE AND THE GUARDIAN, THE JAPANESE MISSION DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES REPRESENT A HARDENING OF THE COMMUNITY'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

4. THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES CALL FOR A SYSTEM OF RECIPROCAL INFORMATION AND COORDINATED POLICY AMONG THE MEMBER STATES. THE MAINTAIN THE OBJECTIVE OF TREATING EC/JAPANESE TRADE RELATIONS IN A COMMUNITY CONTEXT TO THE MEMBER STATES. THE COMMUNITY WOULD IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE NOT ONLY DISCUSS JAPANESE EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO TRY TO IMPROVE TRADE FLOWS IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. IN THE ABSENCE OF A GLOBAL SOLUTION WITH THE JAPANESE, THE COMMUNITY WOULD EXPECT TO UTILIZE ALL THE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL IN NEGOTIATING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS WITH JAPAN. THE COMMUNITY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE PROBLEMS IN PARTICULAR SECTORS STEMMING FROM LARGE JAPANESE EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ELECTRONIC SECTOR. THE NOTE CONTAINS A PROMISE BY THE COMMISSION TO PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL SPECIAL PROPOSALS FOR PUTTING THESE GENERAL GUIDELINES INTO EFFECT.

5. THE GENERAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES WILL THUS HAVE

CONCRETE OPERATIONAL MEANING ONLY WHEN THE COUNCIL
REACTS TO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS THAT THE COMMISSION
MIGHT MAKE. WE ARE TRANSMITTING THE FRENCH TEXT OF
THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO THE DEPARTMENT.
GREENWALD

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